

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 5 and 8-26 were pending in this application. All of the claims, but for claim 16, have now been cancelled and new claims 27 and 28 have been added hereby. Support for the Amendment to claim 16 and the new claims can be found in Figures 1, 4 and 5 of the present application. Claims 16, 27 and 28 will be pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. For the reasons stated below, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, the previously-filed corrected drawing was approved and the Abstract was objected to. A replacement sheet for Fig. 9 is being submitted herewith and the Abstract has been amended consistent with the Examiner's remarks.

In view of the cancellation of claims by this Amendment, the only relevant art-based rejection is that based on Lia (U.S. Patent 5,222,477). Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lia. To the extent this rejection might still be applied to amended claim 16, or the new claims dependent therefrom, it is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that the shield plate according to the claimed invention can be used like an ordinary exchangeable lens. In the case where a light shield plate and an objective lens system are separated from each other, and the light shield plate is replaced with a new light shield plate, the new light shield plate will not function effectively because of incompatibility between an objective lens system originally comprised by a camera body (i.e.,

objective lens system attached to the camera body without consideration of compatibility with the light shield plate) and the new light shield plate. In contrast, in accordance with amended claim 16, the light shield plate and the objective lens system are integrated with each other, and the compatibility between the objective lens system and the light shield plate will, therefore, not be an issue.

While Lia is related to the same field of endeavor as that of the presently claimed invention, a fair reading of that reference by one skilled in the art necessarily leads to the conclusion that the reference does not disclose a light shield plate and an objective lens system that are integrated with each other. Consequently, the effect and function of the present invention can not be accomplished in light of the Lia reference.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejection of claim 16 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

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Date: October 15, 2003

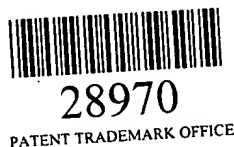
Respectfully submitted,

MASAO YAMAMOTO

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Attachments: Replacement Drawing sheet

MDB/LDE/ggb



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